

THE LIBERATOR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN | APRIL 23, 2012 | ISSUE 4

WHAT THEY STARTED HERE
WILL CHANGE THE
WORLD

*NATALIE BUTLER
KELSEY SPECTOR
NAVEEN PATTISAPU*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

THE UNPAID
INTERN
LIBERAL ARTS
ENTREPRENEURS
SUMMER
MOVIES



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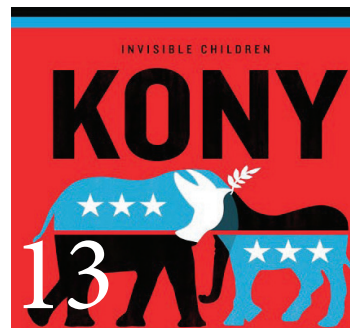
Colors of the Tower

LETTER TO THE EDITOR FEBRUARY ISSUE

Every single spread in this issue was interesting and relevant, as per usual. I especially liked the article about SOPA because it showed that the bill doesn't just concern internet-junkies or people who use file-sharing websites. It concerns anyone who uses collaborative websites like Youtube, and even Facebook, which is basically everyone. Opposition to the bill was a big thing for about a week, but then it faded from the limelight like global issues usually do. I don't think people understand the gravity of the situation, so I'm glad you talked about



it even after the public had moved onto other causes like Syria and Kony. The Liberator always chooses interesting topics to cover that appeal to the mind of a student in liberal arts, not just any UT student. Keep on doing what you do. ■ MADHU SINGH



3, 12, 14 Photo by Marisa Montemayor
13 from Invisible Children



On the Cover

Student Photos by Murphy Carter, Tower
Photo by Armando Vera

ON THE COVER 10-11 | 3 Seniors Changing the World

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Love it? Hate it? Let us know! Letters to the editor reviewing articles from this issue will be printed in the next edition of *THE LIBERATOR*.

THE LIBERATOR is the official publication of The Liberal Arts Council. As a liberal arts-focused news magazine, we aim to keep students connected to the university through updates on legislation, campus affairs and student life. All questions, comments and concerns can be directed to THE LIBERATOR at:

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THE LIBERATOR

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Course offers business world jump start



“Limitless Options, Major Possibilities.” As the tagline for Liberal Arts Career Services, this phrase could not define better the academic career of Liberal Arts students. As the biggest college on the University of Texas at Austin campus, The College of Liberal Arts is comprised of 55 different majors and 21 academic departments, making for a very diverse student population. Amongst these thousands of students are some budding entrepreneurs, just waiting to make their own stake in the business world. LACS now has the perfect opportunity for these enterprisers, through their new course, “LA 235: The Liberal Arts Entrepreneur.”

Debuting this spring, The Liberal Arts Entrepreneur is a three-credit hour upper-division course designed for students with innovative ideas seeking the means to see them come to fruition. Featuring a \$300 dollar scholarship to use in preparation, the course works with students to help them develop a strong business plan, whether to use immediately or to continue to develop it into the future.

Why should liberal arts students be given the opportunity to test their business development skills? Co-creator of the course Robert Vega, Assistant Director of LACS, contributes the cause to the mindset that a Liberal Arts education fosters. “We regularly hear our students express an interest in starting a nonprofit or business enterprise, or following a non-traditional career path,” Vega commented. “Liberal Arts students are inherently creative, open-minded, flexible, and open to change: all characteristics of the entrepreneurial mindset.”

Equipping students with the skill set necessary, Vega promotes an environment in which students can explore all of their possibilities in the business world. Learning topics such as competitive analysis, realistic goal setting, and a social media plan, students are encouraged to develop a full-fledged business plan through their time in the course. Ranging from midwifery, to a music matchmaking business, this course is producing a vast variety of perspectives, much like the college itself.

Senior and Women's and Gender Studies, Summer Morgan, took the course in order to further develop her plan to open a midwifery business. With intense passion and determination for her idea, Morgan has invested much thought into her idea. “Midwifery care is about so much more than just birth; it's about relationships, respect, and choices, and above all else, it's about caring for and empowering women,” she

said. As far as the course goes, Morgan believes that the best thing she will take from it is learning to write her own business plan, while acquiring the skills to run her own business and be her own boss.

Iván Brave, Philosophy major and Business Foundations minor, with a strong background and love for music, came into the Liberal Arts Entrepreneur Class with an idea to spark collaboration amongst artists. Brave's idea, which he has termed “Rock Roulette”, will allow individual artists to come together, band together with other artists to either jam or produce a song, and, along the way, hopefully establish a musical relationship that could lead to starting a band. “My Rock Roulette project is to help out other musicians, and start a scene of interaction, but also open up opportunities for me to do other things in music, which is my passion,” Brave commented. Brave contributes much of his desire to start up his own business venture to his liberal arts education. “With a Liberal Arts degree I'm coming at [entrepreneurship] from a different angle; I'll have different and better ideas, and I definitely feel it has made me more creative,” Brave said.

Drew Stack, a senior with a Government major and Economics and Business Foundations minor, is looking into entrepreneurship in order to shape the education policy in America. His interest in government, political economics, equality, financial markets, and seeing a sustainable American economy all contribute to his want to establish his own firm. “One of the greatest things about taking a class like Liberal Arts Entrepreneur is that it makes you confront almost every aspect of your idea; we really have to think and analyze the legitimacy of our business,” Stack said. The class has allowed Stack to turn an idea into a tangible business plan, and something that he looks forward to working towards throughout his life. “You have to take some risks to achieve your goals, and if the rewards are worth the risks and you've done your work, it should be exciting to pursue what you're passionate about,” Stack commented.

Though Liberal Arts Career Services has been supplying students the means to gain careers beyond the 40 acres consistently over the years, new methods are always welcomed. Their innovation in introducing the Liberal Arts Entrepreneur course has proved to be responsible for the transformation of many Liberal Arts students' ideas for entrepreneurship into feasible business plans, further contributing to the creative mindset CoLA students nurture in the classroom.

■ MALLORY FOUTCH

MEET THE ENTREPRENEURS



IVÁN BRAVE

Philosophy major and Business Foundations minor

“With a Liberal Arts degree I'm coming at [entrepreneurship] from a different angle; I'll have different and better ideas, and I definitely feel it has made me more creative.”



SUMMER MORGAN

senior Women's and Gender studies

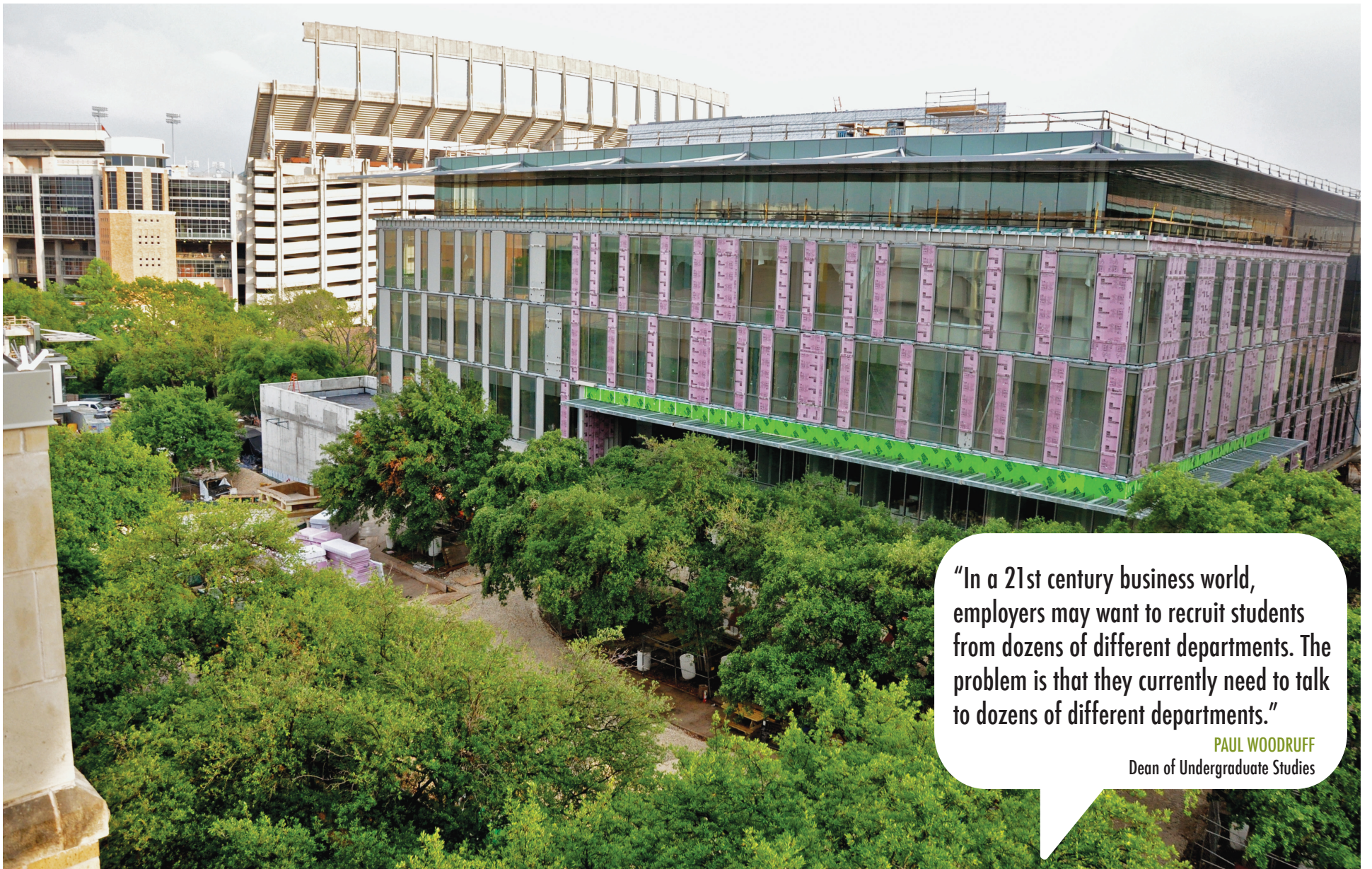
“Midwifery care is about so much more than just birth; it's about relationships, respect, and choices, and above all else, it's about caring for and empowering women.”



DREW STACK

senior Government major, Economics and Business Foundations minor

“You have to take some risks to achieve your goals, and if the rewards are worth the risks and you've done your work, it should be exciting to pursue what you're passionate about.”



"In a 21st century business world, employers may want to recruit students from dozens of different departments. The problem is that they currently need to talk to dozens of different departments."

PAUL WOODRUFF
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Recruitment center to be housed in new liberal arts building

Recently, the University of Texas, in an effort to make the college more attractive for businesses to send their recruiters to, approved the creation of a university-wide career services office. To properly implement the creation of this office, Paul Woodruff, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, chairs a committee created by University President Bill Powers. The committee, tentatively called University Career and Interview Center Working Group, consists of 40 students and career services personnel from every college.

The university provides students with a high-quality education, with some of the best programs in several fields. Despite being one of the largest campuses by population, and entering over 10,000 graduates into the labor force each year, UT Austin consistently doesn't place on the list of favorite schools for businesses to recruit at.

Currently, every college handles their own career services and recruitment. Under the current system, businesses wanting to recruit from multiple colleges require communication with multiple offices. By implementing a university-wide system in place, businesses need to only call one office that can coordinate with multiple colleges, thus reducing the time and money required to set up events and interviews.

"The bottom line is some students aren't

getting the same quality access to interviews and employers," said committee member Hank Dugie, "And we're trying to make sure nobody falls through the cracks."

For their own reasons, some colleges have closed recruitment events. The recruitment center doesn't intend to eliminate these. According to Woodruff, the new recruitments center doesn't intend to interfere with the goals of individual departments. But rather, it serves to help businesses wishing to attract students from a variety of disciplines.

"In a 21st century business world, employers may want to recruit students from dozens of different departments," Woodruff said, "The problem is that they currently need to talk to dozens of different departments."

The creation of the recruitment center is part of a broader effort by the University of Texas to raise graduation rates. Students staying in the college for longer periods of time take precious resources. Since freshman and sophomores require less money to accommodate, freeing up space for new students can reduce strain on the university's budget. President powers and the committee believe that students with a more clear career outlook make a better effort to graduate within four years. Also, many students delay graduation



The new recruitment center will be located in the new College of Liberal Arts building, currently being constructed near the Student Activities Center. Photos by Murphy Carter

due to their desire to transfer to a school seen as having a better career services center. The process of transferring may take at least a semester to complete. The Career and Interview Working group hopes that by giving students of all colleges more equal access to job interviews, they will be less likely to change majors.

According to Woodruff, there has been no significant opposition to the establishment of the

recruitment center. Many students and faculty as well as career services personnel understand the need for a university-wide recruitment center to enhance recruiting at the university. The committee hopes to get funding to hire a director this summer, and they plan to open up the recruitment center's offices sometime by the end of 2013.

■ USMAN MASOOD

THE QUARTERS

6 LOCATIONS

INDIVIDUAL
LEASES

2-4 BLOCKS
FROM CAMPUS

CABLE AND
INTERNET INCLUDED



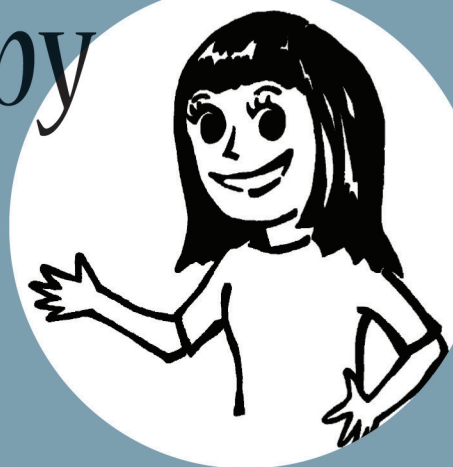
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AND ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN



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RESUMES

THE LIBERAL ARTS
ENTREPRENEUR

MOCK INTERVIEWS

INTERNSHIPS

PRE-LAW

CAREER FAIRS

GRAD SCHOOL PREP

NETWORKING

CAREER
COURSES

CAREER RESEARCH


SOCIAL MEDIA

ON-CAMPUS
RECRUITING

COVER LETTER
WRITING



Liberal Arts Career Services | FAC 18 | 512.471.7900 | lacs@austin.utexas.edu | www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/lacs/



MODERN HONOR

Students campaign
for contemporary war
memorial

Washington, D.C. has a Korean War memorial, a Vietnam War memorial, and a World War II memorial. But what of our more recent veterans? Though the UT stadium is dedicated to all veterans and there is a statue commemorating World War II soldiers, sophomore Kelly Depew and Senior Apolonio Hernandez III hope to acknowledge our country's most recent warriors. As co-founders of Students for Modern Warriors, Depew and Hernandez have been campaigning for a statue to pay tribute to veterans of America's more recent wars. "[It is] not just for fallen veterans but people that answered the call to arms and went to war" says Hernandez, a veteran himself.

Hernandez and Depew are dedicated to their cause but it is not without challenges. "Our biggest obstacle is funding," says Depew. This prompted the organization to utilize social media and free websites. The team began work with a change.org petition that quickly spread throughout UT's Facebook community. With increasing support from UT students, Students for Modern Warriors is ready to tackle the process of getting University approval for this new statue.

"Our focus has shifted from students to the administration" says Depew. The group still needs support with the online petition though. "UT administrators really like to hear that students are behind this," says Hernandez. The best way to show student support is to present a growing list of signatures.

The organization also needs to get Frank Denius on board. Denius is the namesake of the current war memorial outside the UT stadium, and is one of the most decorated veterans of World War II. Denius is a major UT supporter and as the proposed statue would be an addition to the current WWII memorial, his support is imperative. Students for Modern Warriors hopes to secure approval for the statue by May and to unveil the new memorial on

Veterans Day 2013.

Though Hernandez will graduate in May 2012 he hopes to return when the memorial is in place. Hernandez adds, "From a veteran's perspective it is really good to see non-veterans support." He goes on to say that veterans within the UT community are hesitant to show public support in case they are seen to be advocating for a statue for themselves.

With ongoing political debate over the wars, some may wonder if erecting a statue to modern veterans isn't politicizing a public university. Depew and Hernandez deny this assertion, pointing to the distinction between supporting the troops and supporting the war. "I have friends overseas who don't support the war but are willing to serve, they step forward. It's not about politics, it is about the guy to your left or your right," adds Hernandez. Many on the UT campus agree with this sentiment and have shown their support for a memorial to those who have served our country in the twenty-first century.

Ben Armstrong, Coordinator of Student Veteran Services at UT, supports this endeavor. "[I am] excited and elated to see this collaboration between individuals." He hopes that such collaboration between civilian and veteran students won't stop when this project is complete. Student veterans may struggle with entering a slower-paced environment where their life experience is likely different to those around them and where there is no chain of command. Armstrong adds, "Our generation of veterans aren't one for great pomp and circumstance," and the best thing our community can do for its veterans is to interact with them and see them as students and friends, not just veterans. Any student veteran on campus or family member of a veteran is welcome in the Student Veteran Services office, which recently opened in the Student Services Building.

■ AILEEN O'LEARY



PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

LEE WALKER

PATHWAYS TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROFESSOR | ENTREPRENEUR | TITAN

On paper and with only a faraway glance, Plan II professor, Lee Walker, is a titan, and I use the comparison in nearly every sense. As the former president of the Dell Computer Corporation in the late eighties, and a founding board member for the Lance Armstrong Foundation, Livestrong, he is a titan of industry. Those accomplishments are only in addition to his post as the “Pathways to Civic Engagement” professor at the University of Texas, and just another part of an impressive entrepreneurial resume. Not to mention that at a towering 6’ 9” that commands everyone to quite literally look up to him, Walker is a physical titan too.

GENTLE GIANT

As his reputation preceded him, I found myself intimidated to interview such a campus a big-wig. Not only did I have to work with his secretary, whom was quite gracious, to get squeezed in to his schedule, but my research on him lead me to countless awards some of which included Austinite of the Year from the Austin Chamber of Commerce, and the Texas Nature Conservancy Lifetime Achievement award. No big deal, right? We met in the Littlefield Café, dead smack in the middle of a lunchtime rush, where he had been previously consulting with students. Luckily my LIBERATOR shirt saved me the trouble of stumbling over a lengthy introduction, and Walker broke the ice with something simple, “I’m starving, would you mind if I grabbed some food? Just don’t tell them how sloppy I eat!” He, of course, was kidding as he was a thorough gentleman and hindsight conjures up ideas of a gentle giant. When we settled into our discourse, the conversation flowed quite organically. It is easy to see why Lee Walker is such a big deal to many students on campus.

As an undergraduate at Texas A&M University, Walker studied physics. In response to that commonplace rivalry, Walker quipped, “I bet you have some skeletons in your closet too,” and went on to explain how the basketball program recruited him, a kid “who couldn’t walk and talk at the same time...to keep the star out of trouble.” He also minored in Russian and went on to receive his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1967. His life’s work, thus far, clearly makes use of his impressive degrees, but Walker seemed to have a particular passion for his minor too.

“When I went to A&M, I came across a man, Mr. Stark, & he believed down to his toe-tips in other cultures, other languages, and living abroad. Part of my secret sauce is that gift from him. So, every summer, I was off,” Walker said. His time experiencing other cultures culminated in what he called an, “imagination explosion”, and that spirit is still thriving in him today as he spends a third of the year living in Italy.

WHERE THERE’S A WILL...

Sometimes students get caught up in timetables, degree plans, and budgeting, so that they write off any opportunity to spend time overseas as something dreams are made of, but it was obvious from Professor Walker’s passion, that if there’s a will there’s a way, and the experience can be simply invaluable. When I mentioned that time in Italy would be a surreal experience for me, he even joked, “I’ll take you with me, and put you to work!”

Walker takes that hard working attitude, penchant for other cultures, and technological innovation create points of inspiration. Though Professor Walker is seventy years young, he is like so many of us in that he rarely goes anywhere without his tablet or smart-phone, which he claimed make his days all the more productive. When discussing whether or not, as a teacher, he found these devices to be distracting to our generation, he was quick to employ an analogy only a technical geek could love, “If I have a hammer, a tool, and I want to bonk myself on the head with it, I can’t blame the tool. You got these great tools, and how you use them is up to you.” He continued explaining how he saw the technological innovations of our time as co-evolutionary, wherein he explained, “we invent them, and they invent us.”

This hung in the air as a kind of revelation to me, because this man sure knows a lot about invention. “I don’t really see myself as a serial entrepreneur, but I think I’m serially curious,” Walker said. Experience at the forefront of Dell and the foundation of Livestrong, have oriented Walker to the tenets of originality and philanthropy. “To me entrepreneurship is these 3 things: you notice something, it starts with attention, then your imagination cuts in, just dreaming up how to respond to that thing you know, and you go do something.” He then detailed some of the efforts he personally supports, like Livestrong’s initiative in donating to Planned Parenthood following Susan G. Komen’s pull of funds, and President Obama’s Affordable Care act. With the latter, he acknowledged that the legislation is flawed, but it is a step in the right direction because for him, health care is a right. “I think that’s what separates entrepreneurs from the rest of the crowd—we do something about what we notice,” Walker said.



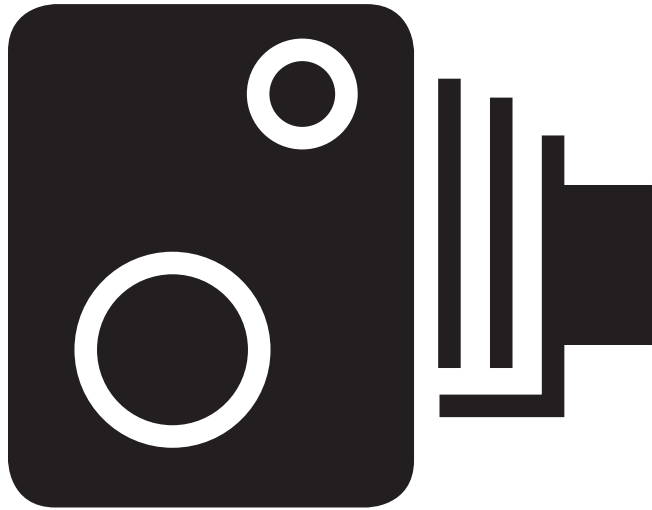
A LIFE-LONG LEARNER

Now, don’t interpret that as another poke at your liberal arts degree because Walker was sure to say, “People associate the word [entrepreneur] with business, and I think that’s an error. It can be within a hospital, within government, it can be anywhere.” Being a professor in the university’s Plan II program and a man with experience working with some of the most productive businesses makes Walker quite appreciative a broad degree. “Back when I was hiring people, what I was looking for, was really smart people, because I can train them in our discipline. Employees that did the best, as a generalization, were those that were liberal arts. The best strategy is to have the broad skills of being well read, being able to write, to speak and think clearly. The thing I’ve tried to do all my life, I try to feed my imagination constantly. I am a life-long learner,” Walker said.

With that, we were sure to exchange the regular pleasantries before I snapped a few quick pictures of the man I had just met, and already felt I had known for many years. While packing up, Walker sincerely added that he hoped he remained updated with what our paper was doing, and that we kept in touch. Well, Mr. Walker, I hope so too.

■ CASSIE MANEEN

REEL SUMMER ACTION



For many of us, Summer brings back fond memories of barbecues, sleeping until noon, and silently judging our least favorite relatives. Though, Austin has many things to do, movie theaters still provide an easy way to waste 2-3 hours. Here at THE LIBERATOR, using cutting edge scientific research (by which I mean I Googled "Summer movies" and found an IMDB article), found four movies worth the price of admission and the danger of sticky floors, overpriced refreshments, and annoying children.

Note: The following movies are all inferior to Cool Runnings and Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift. Given the choice, watch them. But if everyone wants to watch something else, don't be that guy complaining about the movie the entire time and choose one of these.

■ USMAN MASOOD



The Avengers May 4, 2012

To be honest, I do not particularly enjoy superhero movies. Spiderman, Iron Man, and some of the X-Men movies proved surprisingly delightful, but most of these types of film seem like cheap cash-ins for production studios to avoid paying for IP development with established franchises and big-name actors. But The Avengers has Joss Whedon as director, and apparently he's made good stuff. More importantly, The Avengers has Samuel L. Jackson. Even if the movie doesn't live up to its expectations, at least there's the same actor from such masterpieces as the underappreciated PBS series Ghostwriter, Snakes on a Plane, and Pulp Fiction (which was legitimately great).



Men in Black III May 25, 2012

A back story of Agent K that nobody asked for (just like this movie), a budget 20 times the GDP of the Pacific island of Niue, a time machine to the 1960's, and soundtrack prominently featuring the musical artistry of Pitbull; the perfect recipe for a flaming wreck involving two high speed experimental Japanese bullet trains packed with Nitro-glycerine. For appreciators of bad film, this might approach Street Fighter: The Movie levels of mediocrity (and I do not take Street Fighter comparisons lightly). Though, I would not see Men in Black II again if the ghosts of Eazy-E and Ol' Dirty Bastard showed up to watch it with me, following a private concert at DKR for me and 95,000 of my closest friends. The ridiculous production values might make this one worth throwing away your parents' hard earned money originally meant for a high quality education.



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter June 22, 2012

Uh, it's called Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter. The plotline involves Abraham Lincoln, the man who successfully preserved the United States of America, hunting vampires. I could care less about the actual quality of the movie, but who could not want to watch a film that somehow makes Abraham Lincoln, arguably the best president of this great nation, even greater? This has unlimited potential. Though any worthwhile member of the human race wishes to see the 16th president drive a stake through that Edward guy from Twilight (at least in a viral promotion please?), so many possibilities still exist. Maybe George McClellan was a Confederate vampire spy and Lincoln knew all along, thus he purposely assigned him to areas of high sunlight in order to hamper his efforts. Yes, I know it's based on a book, but adaptations do not have to be 100% faithful.



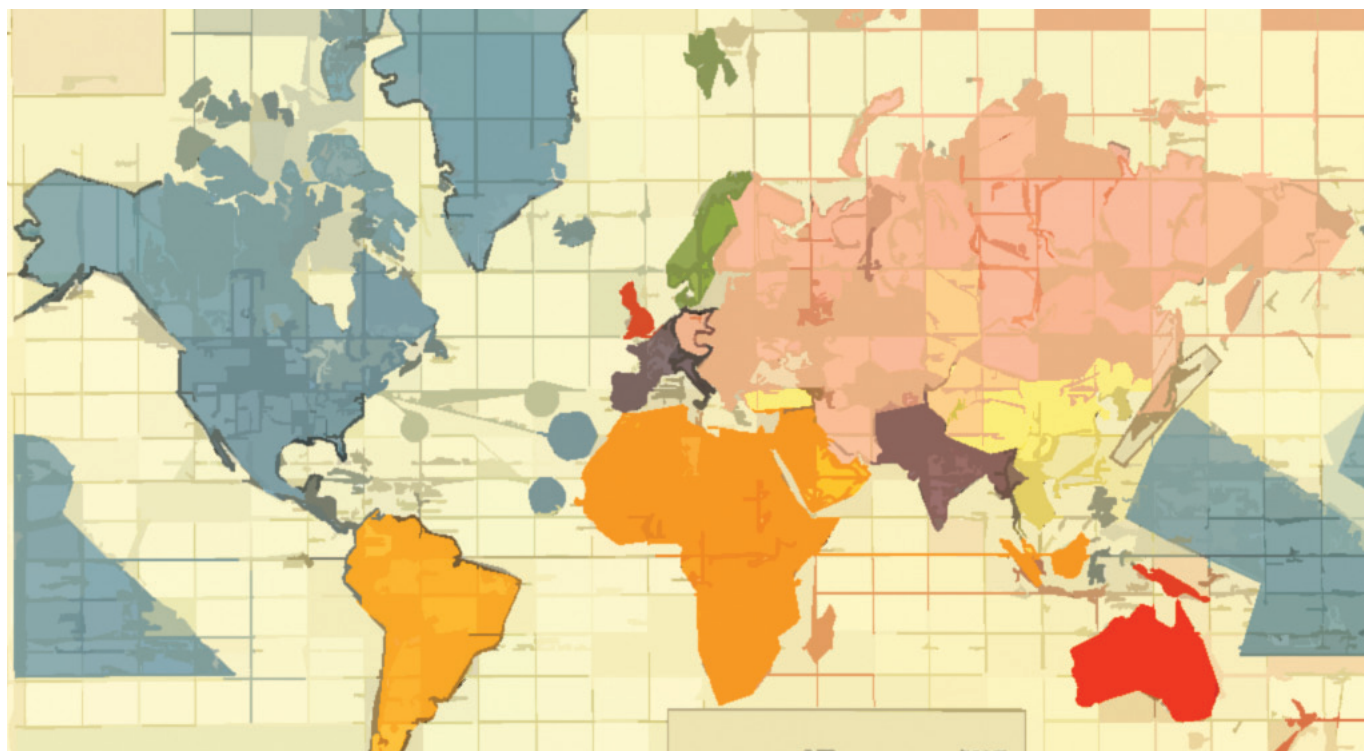
The Dark Knight Returns July 20, 2012

To be honest, you're going to see the damn thing whether I put it on this list or not. Whether it turns out to be good or the greatest flop since Speed Racer, just go.

Fortunately, this summer has some legitimately promising as well as so-bad-it's-hilarious films to look forward to.

GLOBE TROTTERS

UT REMAINS IN THE TOP
THREE UNIVERSITIES FOR
NUMBER OF STUDENTS
WHO STUDY ABROAD. FIND
OUT WHY...



Exciting, scary, easier, cultural, and let's not forget expensive. These are just a few words frequently used to describe studying abroad. Luckily for liberal arts students the Liberal Arts Council is helping defray the costs of studying abroad. Each year, LAC offers a scholarship to liberal arts undergraduates who are studying abroad for at least one long semester. You simply need a 2.75 GPA and 12 hours in residence to apply, that's all. Awards range from \$500-2000 and recipients travel all over the world.

Previous winner Grace Zhang is currently in Alexandria, Egypt. "As part of the Arabic Flagship Program at UT, I will be continuing my Arabic studies in the hopes of achieving business proficiency in the language," says Zhang who is spending 12 months in Egypt. "[When travelling] you get to learn so much about other cultures and yourself as well." Upon her return, Zhang hopes to attend law school and pursue a career in international law.

Collin Norkiewicz, Fall 2011 recipient, has good news

for students learning Chinese on campus, "My Chinese level when I tested here [in China] was higher than expected for the amount of semesters I had previously taken at The University of Texas, proving the strength of the program against national standards." He adds, "This is a very exciting time to become active in the rising global power and learn a language that will have much significance later on down the road."

Another Fall 2011 award went to Elise Minjárez who is currently in Córdoba, Argentina. At UT Minjárez studies International Relations and Spanish Linguistics but in Argentina she is studying Latin American literature and culture among other things. "I decided Córdoba, Argentina was right for me because I both appreciated the design of the [Spanish and Latin American Culture] program and was deeply intrigued by the university itself, as it is one of the oldest in the Americas."

Jessi Devenyns, and English and Public Relations major, travelled to Valencia, Spain

with her award. "I wanted to come to Valencia because I knew I wanted to be somewhere where they spoke Spanish. [It is] on the Mediterranean coast with gorgeous beaches and a wonderful climate. It is one of those places you dream about living and see in magazines..."

So having read about all of these wonderful experiences, you decide you are ready to take the plunge and go abroad. What is your next step? The University requires that you work with the study abroad office but senior Lorri Marlow warns, "You have to go knowing every specific thing you need in order to get any guidance."

Before you get too far in your planning, make sure you check with your advisor that your experience will count toward your degree and don't forget to get onto the Study Abroad Office's scholarship database to learn how to pay for it. Once you do, you will find the LAC Study Abroad Scholarship Committee is waiting for your application!

■ AILEEN O'LEARY

TOP STUDY ABROAD DESTINATIONS

Spain
France
Italy
UK
China

WHAT THEY STARTED HERE

WILL CHANGE THE WORLD



PHOTOS BY MURPHY CARTER + ARMANDO VERA

From hearing our campus motto in Walter Cronkite's baritone voice at fall football games to navigating the daily fluster of globally-focused student organizations on the West Mall, one thing about UT Austin is pretty clear: students are expected to leave the 40 Acres with the drive to positively impact the world around them. But with contentious international discourse on the plagued world economy, shocking human rights violations present world-wide and grim environmental depletion, it can be hard to remain positive about our potential to make the world a better place.

Here are three Longhorn seniors who have shown dedication to social justice during their years at UT, and are looking at promising horizons post-graduation in May. Taking on flawed education policy, looking at global health from a social justice perspective, and teaching America's at-risk youth, these seniors are poised to put lofty ideas into action.

No one should doubt that this year's senior student body president Natalie Butler, triple major in Plan II honors, Government and Political Communications, has already had a major impact on the community. Originally from Tempe, Arizona, Butler has proved her passion for civic engagement through her membership in service organizations like Orange Jackets and the Friar Society.

"I've really enjoyed student government's ability to have a direct impact on students on campus," Butler said. "I love the university, but there's always things we can do better. I think students deserve the biggest seat at the table in every discussion we have that's on campus and I feel like it's my job to make sure that happens."

Some of Butler's proudest accomplishments as president have been the addition of a student seat on the budget council and the large-scale community-building events on campus. Butler's passion for civic engagement runs throughout both her extracurricular and academic pursuits.

"My classroom development and development as a student leader have gone hand in hand," she said. "I am a government and political communications major, so in the realm of running a campaign, my major has been really relevant to my student government position." Though Butler is considering entering law school down the road, she will move to Dallas after graduation to work for a managing and consulting firm.

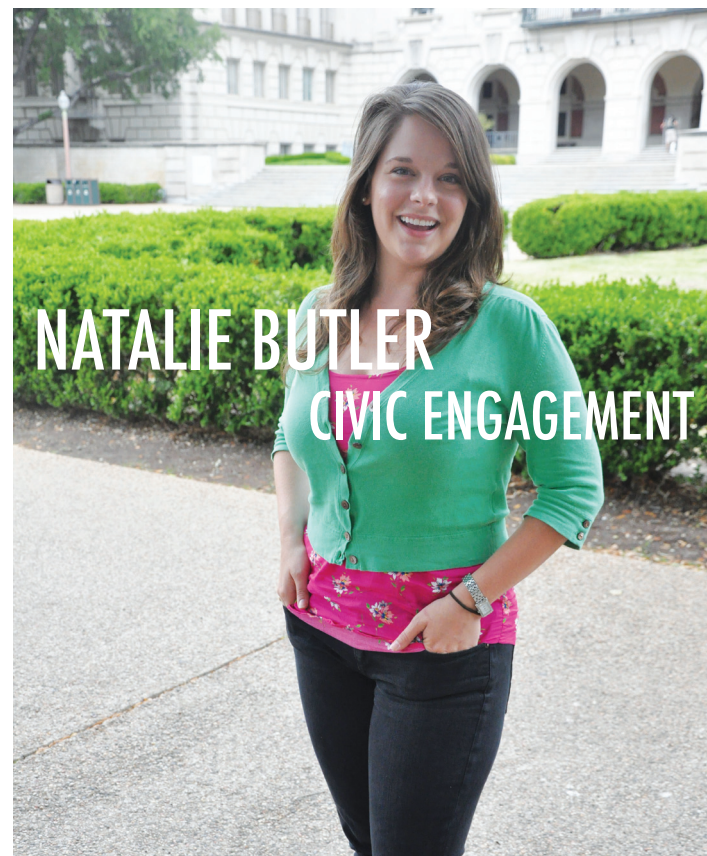
"(The job) is a trajectory shift, but I just knew I didn't want to go straight into law school next year," she said. "I want to work my brain in a little bit of a different way and I do think law school is in my future, but I want to

learn some new things about the world. I am excited to learn new skills and learn a different way of thinking."

Butler's interest in the law stems from her passion for understanding greater societal structures and the way individuals can engage and impact their communities. Her main goal is tackling education reform and focusing on the interaction between education and societal progress; she cites apathy as the greatest problem facing the rising generation. Butler's interest in education's ability to produce more engaged citizens led her to write her senior thesis on the affect of high school government classroom curricula on student political efficacy.

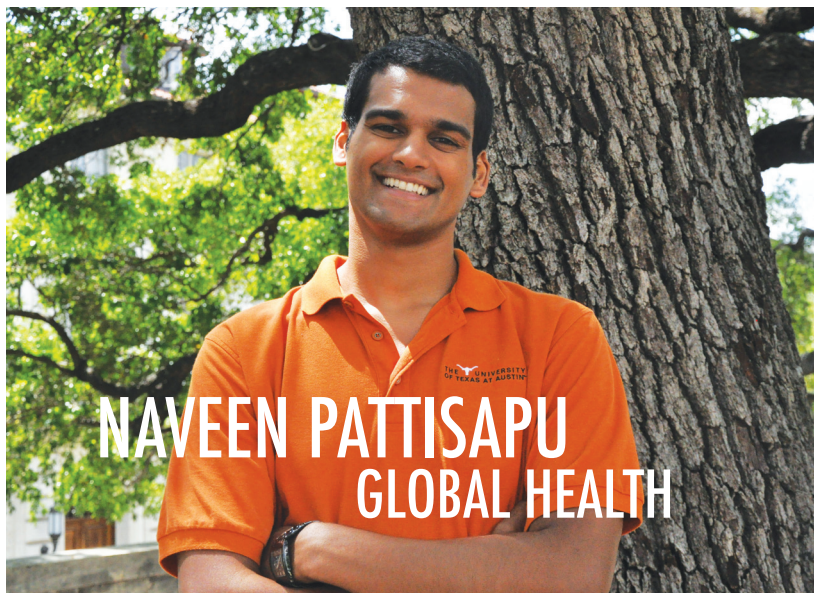
Butler found that from experiential style learning models, such as mock trials and role-playing Congressional processes, students leave the classroom with a more passionate outlook on voting and political participation. This discovery sparked Butler's interest to champion education and battle the apathetic attitudes she sees as detrimental to American society.

"There's this attitude of 'It's not going to affect me, so why should I care?'" she said. "In a lot of places, education is frankly falling apart, and yet people our age say, 'I'm not in school anymore so it doesn't affect me.' But the thing is, education is a common good and it's better for you and I if everyone has better education and universal literacy and universal engagement. It's that sort of functioning as an island that is really problematic, that's the part that really frightens me. I have the mission to get people engaged and my bigger focus is getting people to care."



NATALIE BUTLER
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

"Education is a common good and it's better for you and I if everyone has better education and universal literacy and universal engagement...I have the mission to get people engaged and my bigger focus is getting people to care."



NAVEEN PATTISAPU GLOBAL HEALTH

"The doctors I admire are driven by the philosophy that global health is not just about medical issues, but a global human right to health and education... I want to look at the global infrastructure and look at the opportunities present to build great things for everyone."

Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences senior Naveen Pattisapu's activist mentality has been with him since childhood, when he witnessed grotesque global social problems firsthand on visits to his mother's Indian village of Visakhapatnam.

"(In India), I saw that diseases and problems I thought were long gone here were grossly prevalent there," he said. "I remember going to temples and seeing rows of lepers reaching out their hands, and it really exposed me to the social inequities in the world."

This experience sparked Pattisapu's passion for an activist approach to global health.

"I think you have to look at all the extraneous factors beyond just medicine," he said. "I want to recognize the cycles present and the entire social and medical issues at stake. You can give people medicine, but drugs don't matter unless

the people also have food and nourishment and a good economy to sustain themselves. It's a multilayered problem and you have to have a multilayered approach."

Pattisapu's broad approach to problem solving is mirrored in his selection of academic focus. A dual major in Plan II liberal arts and Cell-Molecular Biology with a focus on virus research, Pattisapu appreciates a big picture view, balancing the study of philosophy and humanities with hard science research. With post-graduation plans of entering a dual MD and PHD program, Pattisapu hopes he can continue this multifaceted approach to achieving his goals of social justice.

"I want to go the MD/PHD route because I think that you have to have a larger purpose and enjoy the process," he said. "Your life needs to be fulfilling, and you have to enjoy the cause

and the process. I'd like to be on the treatment side of things because I am interested in public health, but my heart is in research."

Exposure to doctors who put Pattisapu's activist focus into practice were an inspiration, he said. After he earns a MD and PHD, Pattisapu said he hopes to develop better global health opportunities through research and establishing medical training sites in suffering areas of the world.

"The doctors I admire are driven by the philosophy that global health is not just about medical issues, but a global human right to health and education, and are working to help the fact that many people are just stuck in a position of poverty. A big idea in global health is respect and equity. I want to look at the global infrastructure and look at the opportunities present to build great things for everyone."

In college, many students can pinpoint specific classes or professors as pivotal sources of inspiration from which they mold their next step in life. But for Government and Philosophy major Kelsey Spector, that moment of clarity came from mentoring children in her free time. After volunteering with the Settlement Home, a safe home for abused girls in the Austin area, and helping her younger brother through difficult times, Spector's passion for localized work with youth will be put into action this June as she begins to work for Teach For America at the Infinity Charter School in Dallas.

"After working at the Settlement Home with the girls to stress the importance of education and to act as a positive female influence in their lives, I realized how much change I can effect with in my own community," she said. "I remember one girl in particular, with whom I bonded over a love of reading and the power of literature to transform an individual. Despite all the trials she had been through, she was truly one of the happiest, most optimistic people I've encountered during my time as a student. I'll carry her story of triumph and growth in the face of adversity with me."

As president of UNICEF and a member of Orange Jackets and Best Buddies organizations, Spector explored her passion for providing individuals with equal opportunity and helping youth during her time at UT.

This focus on impacting change in her own local community influenced Spector's desire to join Teach for America.

"I wanted to join (the program) because it provides me the opportunity to help children achieve their potential through the power of a quality education," she said. "I joined Teach for America because I believe every child should have the opportunity and resources they need to achieve at the highest levels, no matter the extra challenges they may face. I'm excited for this adventure, challenging as it may be, because it provides me with the opportunity to give my future students the gift of education and opportunity."

Spector wrote a thesis arguing that corruption and social inequality are too frequently the outcomes of campaign finance legislation. Her interest in politics and systemic opportunity inequality play into her decision to join Teach for America, and her approach to making the world a better place.

"If college has taught me anything, it's that the most effective change comes through a revolution in ideas and attitudes and that this is most often achieved locally. That being said, my passion will always be first and foremost providing individuals with equal opportunities to pursue their conception of the good life. I see myself as an advocate for procedural fairness and equality of opportunity. Either way I decide to go, I know I'll be humble and persistent in my approach. The greatest changes often start with incremental, gradual gains."

■ JORDAN GREENBERG



KELSEY SPECTOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

"The most effective change comes through a revolution in ideas and attitudes and that this is most often achieved locally. That being said, my passion will always be first and foremost providing individuals with equal opportunities to pursue their conception of the good life."



PHOTO BY MARISA MONTEMAYOR

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

KARAN SETHI

English and Advertising Major Exposes Austin's *Underground Music Scene* in Documentary Project

Everybody knows Austin is the music capital of the world, that's nothing new. But a fresh electric current travels through Austin's underground scene. Its beat and tune has yet to be exposed, but Karan Sethi is doing his best to bring it to light.

An English and Advertising double major, Karan's idea for [Beat]en Senseless formed in his experiences with both the underground electronic music scene and the classroom. It began as a project he, Bianca Suaceda, Alice Geaccone, and Hannah Casper worked on since the idea's inception in Karan's creative advertising class. Even in the project's beginning, the electronic music scene they exposed was a hit.

"We were told to document creativity, so I decided to make a mini documentary," Karan said. "They announced my idea in class, and that's how I got my group formed with the other three girls. After we made that one, within a day, we got 500 views without passing it around. I just posted it on my Facebook and she posted it on hers, and that was it. Within that week, we got over a thousand."

From there, the group decided to expand and create their own documentary which centers on three emerging crews in Austin's underground electronic music scene. According to

their website, through documentation of live performances, personal interviews, and compelling acts of musical creation, the film intends to share the spirit of camaraderie that ignites their sound.

"The main focus is to show how these crews aren't competing against each other, but the music scene out here is actually trying to help everyone involved," Karan said. "Nobody hates on anyone. Everyone tries to work together, and that's one of the biggest focuses of the film. It's a community of musicians and artists."

In addition to directing photography and filming, Karan helped raise an impressive \$5,350 and counting to fund the documentary, purely from social media. Through Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook, and even UT's own KUT, the work's funding goals were met. Karan also has his own goal for the film – one that hopes to expose the underground electronic culture's musical spectrum.

"There's a place in music where hip hop and electronic and genre-less music all intersect, and I want people to realize that exists, and it's not just for nerds and geeks, or people who are into weird music or do drugs," said Karan. "It's for everybody."

Karan is also involved in the business sphere as well. He and his

business partner kickstarted their own multimedia and apparel company called "Join the Studio," which features everything from interviews, tutorials, art, music and even their own t-shirts.

"Streetwear companies that we really liked and were highly graffiti and skateboard influenced would put out really cheap t-shirts with one color prints for \$25," Karan said. "We could print that in our garage for less than that. And they'd look better. So we just gradually printed out more and more shirts for us and our friends. This past SXSW we sold out of just about every original design we had."

But Karan's passion for exposing creativity won't stop at the documentary's closing credits. He has every intention of continuing his mission to document the artistic ingenuity so rampant in Austin.

"I just want to keep continuing to document what people are doing. After this documentary, my goal is to start a project where every week I interview one person and put out a five minute video documenting what they do locally in Austin that's creative," Karan said. "From there I'm hoping to start my own creative agency to just be able to do cool creative projects."

■ HARRISON DROMGOOLE

"THERE'S A PLACE IN MUSIC
WHERE HIP HOP AND
ELECTRONIC AND GENRE-
LESS MUSIC ALL INTERSECT,
AND I WANT PEOPLE TO
REALIZE THAT EXISTS"

CHECK OUT HIS WORK

beatensenselessfilm.com
jointhestudio.com

Documented Crews:
Exploded Drawing
Applied Pressure
LNS

INVISIBLE CHILDREN SAVIORS OR SCAM ARTISTS?

On March 5, 2012, a nongovernmental group (NGO), Invisible Children, released a controversial 29 minute film online. It went viral, receiving over 25 million hits in less than a week. The film was released with the intention of making Joseph Kony, an international war criminal, famous. Many people are confused as to why Invisible Children would want to increase the status of a war criminal. Their theory is that by making Kony famous, the general population will be aware of Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). They also hope that the U.S. governments, and other governments, will be pressured to develop a more comprehensive strategy for stopping him. However, as soon as the film was released, many ill critiques of Kony 2012 have arisen.

Much of the anger coming from critics is rooted in the simplicity in which the film presents a very complicated problem in Central Africa. The fear is that oversimplified and uninformed advocacy will cause millions of well-meaning people to create more trouble than help for Central Africa by turning the issue of Joseph Kony into a "white man's burden." This mentality will lead to programs placing money and technology in the hands of the corrupt governments that run the states in Central Africa in order to stop Kony, while at the same time empowering those governments to ignore the problems that really plague the people, such as sleeping sickness and HIV/AIDS. A Foreign Policy article argues that stopping Kony won't solve any of these problems. Many other blogs also argue that watching a movie, posting it, re-tweeting it, etc. won't solve these problems either.

An additional critique is that Invisible Children exaggerates the problem at hand because the LRA has not been in Northern Uganda since 2006 and now has a smaller army. Critics claim that Invisible Children ignores the facts or grossly underplays them in order to make the havoc reaped by the LRA more widespread and gruesome than it currently is. Critics say the film further misrepresents these facts and misleads the audience.

However, in my opinion, many of the negative critiques that Invisible Children has received fall under a weak foundation. Invisible claims "We are storytellers, activists and everyday people who use the power of media to inspire young people to help end the longest running armed conflict in Africa. We make documentaries, tour them around the world, and lobby our nation's leaders to make ending this conflict a priority." Their overall goal is to explain a complex issue in terms that a majority of the world population will understand. The film is a jumping off point that sheds light on a 26-year, grossly overlooked conflict.

Viewers are then encouraged to dig deeper into the issues with links that Invisible Children provides, such as the LRA tracker that shows anyone the approximate whereabouts at that point in time. This tracker, along with other information provided by the Invisible Children website, allows viewers to see that the LRA is no longer in Uganda and also shows every known LRA attack and the date. Furthermore, with regards to the "white man's burden," Invisible Children has acknowledged many times that its main goal is advocacy of the problem and not a top down, white implementation of changes on the ground in Central Africa. It has, however, funded internally executed, sustainable projects such as the early warning radio network, which places radio towers in remote villages to alert them when the LRA is approaching.

While it is always best to question videos found online, I find many of the critiques so far to be groundless. The KONY 2012 campaign, and Invisible Children, is not perfect, of course, but it has done a magnificent job in alerting millions of a problem that has been allowed to continue for far too long right under our eyes. People need to be aware of global issues such as this one and influential leaders need to be pressured to do something about it by their constituents. Both of these things are beginning to happen and I commend Invisible Children on fighting through the criticism for their cause. ■ LORRI MARLOW



5 MINUTES WITH THE INVISIBLE CHILDREN ROADIES

■ RACHEL MARINO

WHERE DOES THE MONEY THAT PEOPLE DONATE ACTUALLY GO?

CASSIDY MYERS: We're a different type of non-profit model in that we don't just have one project area. We have three different parts to where our money goes and that's to the movies, the movement and the mission. The percentage directly to the ground is 37%.

What has been the reaction to CEO Jason Russell's incident?

CASSIDY MEYERS: Our founder Jason wasn't arrested, he was detained briefly. A lot of the initial reports said he was under the influence of something, he wasn't. Combined with pretty much overnight fame and the world kind of ganging up on him... that obviously takes a toll. He had been traveling all over the world, he hadn't slept in nine days, it was literally a mental breakdown. It just shows we all stumble and it doesn't matter, we're all people just trying to do good.

What should we expect from Cover the Night?

ALEX ALBERICO: Our CEO says, you can make change around the world, but you have to start across your street. So one of the major things for Cover the Night, on April 20th, is community service. So, for example, in exchange for washing your neighbor's car he'll let us make and put a Kony 2012 sign in his yard and things that like. After that it's posterizing where it's legal and responsible. Another big thing about Cover the Night is calling your representative.



backyard produce

Local farmer's markets offer fresh perspective

If you're looking for fresh tilapia, delicious cupcakes, a variety of vegan foods, fresh eggs, pecans, or more, look no further than your local farmer's market. These markets consist of individual vendors who set up booths, typically outdoors, in order to sell produce, meat products, fruits and more. Products found at farmers' markets are known for being locally grown, usually organic and very fresh (the produce doesn't have to travel far so there are also less fossil fuels being used in transport).

Austin offers a plethora of farmers' markets on the weekend and throughout the week. Tight on cash? Try the Sustainable Food Center (SFC) Farmers' Market where 57% of consumers are between the ages of 25 and 44.

According to a 2011 Consumer Survey, 61% of the market-goers tried a new fruit a vegetable. With produce like yellow cheddar cauliflower or heirloom winter squash and quail and goose eggs, it's impossible not to find something new and delicious to try.

The SFC market is held on Tuesdays (behind the YMCA at 51st and 183), Wednesdays (at The Triangle), and Saturdays (downtown and in Sunset Valley) from 9 AM to 1 PM. Vendors include Roundrock Honey, Happy Vegan Baker, Dos Lunas Artisan Cheese and many more. Market goers will find the environment open, the foods as ripe as can be and the smells irresistible.

The SFC market is the largest certified growers-only market in the state of Texas. With prices like \$2 per bunch for radishes, thyme, and rosemary at Simmons Family Farm, or \$15 for 3 jars of either Curry-Chipotle Salsa, Mirchi-Masala Salsa or Mango Chutney at Kala's Kuisine, the deals are hard to pass up. In addition, The Lone Star SNAP (or Food Stamp Program) at the SFC Farmers' Market allows holders of the Lone Star Card to come to the big blue Info Booth and use the card to collect wooden tokens that can then be used to buy eligible items from eligible vendors and farmers.

The goals of the Austin's Farmers'

Markets is to "(1) increase the economic vitality of local farms and small businesses; (2) increase awareness, knowledge and action among the Central Texas population about how to positively impact the Central Texas food system and their own health; and (3) create vibrant economically and socially diverse city-centered gathering places.

The Barton Creek Farmers' Market also aims to cultivate both economic growth and community health by providing a weekly, open-air market in an urban setting. Vendors sell only what they grow or produce; this market is open every Saturday, rain or shine, from 9 AM – 1 PM. This marks their 13th year in Austin; they were voted in the top 10 farmers markets in the country in 2008 and 2009.

The Barton Creek Farmers' Market is constantly 'celebrating.' With weekly live music, kids entertainment and special events often, the market gives off a fun, welcoming vibe. Offered is, of course, fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts and herbs. Local ranchers also bring antibiotic and hormone free meat and gulf harvested shrimp to the market. In addition to the local fresh food, there is also internationally prepared foods from across the world and exclusive handmade crafts like jewelry, clothes, art, soaps and more.

Austin has something to offer for just about everybody. For those looking to support small and local businesses, those hoping to reduce their economic foot print one step at a time or for those who just want a variety of fresh, health produce, an Austin Farmers' market is the place to go.

■ RACHEL MARINO



For those looking to support small and local businesses, those hoping to reduce their economic foot print one step at a time or for those who just want a variety of fresh, health produce, an Austin Farmers' market is the place to go.



THE SLACKER

A tale of blood, sweat and tears in the infamous "unpaid internship"

I was surrounded by seven middle aged women in an office. My Y chromosome quivered in fear at the presence of so much estrogen packed in a little space. Each woman was convinced they were a wise sage, and their coworkers were infidel that would contaminate me whenever possible. For months they had been saving special tasks for me. Not because they were lazy and didn't do their jobs, but because they foresaw my arrival.

I continuously traveled from one wise sage to the next, performing the most laborious of tasks, each bestowing a valuable lesson upon me. I embraced the raw power of the paper shredder. I acquired the consistent finesse of the paper copier. And my nemesis, the file cabinets, constantly taunted me. I suffered excruciating wounds. Countless paper cuts plagued me – my blood staining the very papers I filed. But I persevered. Two and a half months of training for the ultimate prize: my glorious resume.

The above paragraphs were written to make myself feel better. In reality, my experience interning without compensation was awful.

Last summer I needed something to do... something to relate to my career choice. So like a proper bourgeois college student, I applied to non-existent internship opportunities. I asked local businesses for the opportunity to work for them free of pay. Then, at the end of summer, I'd make my experience appear fabulous and call it an "unpaid internship." It was brilliant. But it wasn't.

I mostly filed paper, shredded paper, copied paper, and unintentionally cut myself with paper. Filing was evil.

With every paper I filed, I was filing a shred of my sanity. And the file cabinets were never satisfied with the paper I'd feed them. But Dahle the paper shredder and I became the best of friends – no, more than friends. I'd feed him paper, satiating both his appetite and my murderous hatred for those four cornered, white sheets of processed tree guts. Over time, we grew closer and I realized I looked forward to spending my time with him. However, our relationship wasn't without faults. Occasionally, he would vomit paper shreds all over me, try and consume my fingers, and he constantly made me clean out his excrement. Just normal couple stuff.

FILING WAS EVIL. WITH EVERY PAPER I FILED, I WAS FILING A SHRED OF MY SANITY

But I was conflicted. The paper copier, she was marvelous. She smelled of crisp clean paper, unlike the used, tainted sheets I was so accustomed to filing. I loved the brisk, confident way she cycled through copies. Our exchanges, however brief, were always entertaining and fascinating. But she was very high maintenance, open to everyone, and everybody loved using her. It just couldn't be. Although we were only around each other for two months, Lexi definitely made her mark on me.

If my imaginary relationships with inanimate office objects weren't enough to keep me sane, the ladies I worked with were. Like a group of thirteen year old girls, they'd openly insult and gossip about each other. Face to face or back to back. With all the interpersonal drama floating around, I could write a script for any show involving a group of women. But in this situation, it would have a "Golden Girls" flare to it. That isn't to say I didn't enjoy their drama though. Listening to Shirley spout off Margaret's atrocities was always a treat. Did you know she steals from Janette's candy drawer, is never in her office when visitors arrive, and constantly bribes people to buy her a Route 44 cherry limeade from Sonic specifically during happy hour? She's basically Satan. And don't even get me started on Deborah. Two words: Beanie Babies.

My "unpaid internship" was essentially a euphemism for volunteering. I would call it slavery, but I did get a single benefit from it. After two and a half months of mind numbing labor, I earned the privilege of typing it up on my resume. All that pointless work was for a sentence on a piece of paper. And that sentence better guarantee me a salary, because my majors will not.

While my service as an uncompensated worker was horrendously soul crushing, I suppose it's necessary to be a grunt at some point in time. It's the first step to the top of the ladder of success. But unfortunately, if my experience has taught me anything, it's mandatory to walk under the ladder beforehand.

TOP 10 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

According to Vault.com, these companies provided students with top-notch internship experiences in 2011.

BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

CAPITAL FELLOWS PROGRAMS

DELOITTE LLP

GARMIN INTERNATIONAL

GOOGLE, INC.

J.P. MORGAN'S INVESTMENT BANK

NASA

NICKELODEON ANIMATION STUDIOS

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL FINANCIAL NETWORK

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

File photo from: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/juniorvelo/>

LEGISLATION RECAP

SB. 1109

Amending the Constitution of the Senate of
College Councils to Institutionalize Invest
in Texas

PASSED

SB. 1110

Amending the Internal Spending Rules of
the Senate of College Councils

PASSED

SR. 1119

In Support of Centralized Minor Availability
Information and the Recognition of Minors on Official
UT Transcripts

PASSED

CAMPUS UPDATES

CTBAC UPDATES

This semester, CTBAC has capped off our year by working to wrap up some of our current projects, as well as create materials to ensure a smooth transition for the next round of students to serve. We have started to explore the creation of a regular college wide survey to be released at least every year, and ideally each

semester to function not only as a mechanism for students to provide feedback on budget and tuition issues, but as a gauge for the college climate more generally. We have also been preparing for the year ahead by discussing college-wide priorities to bring to the Deans during the budget setting process.

It has truly been an honor for all of us to serve the students of this amazing college. We brought the voices of the students to our Deans like never before and we know that the process will only grow stronger. We wish the very best of luck to the next group of students to serve on CTBAC!

■ ANDREW CLARK
send comments to la.ctbac@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 16 - 27
REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER
AND FALL SEMESTER

MAY 4
LAST DAY OF CLASS
MAY 9-12, 14-15
FINAL EXAMINATIONS

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL CORNER

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATION

Blake Meyer is the chair for Liberal Arts Council's Departmental Representatives Committee. Departmental Representatives is one of the many committees that serves Liberal Arts Council's core mission of being the voice of Liberal Arts students. Blake facilitates a large committee of LAC members who each represent a different Liberal Arts Department. "By meeting with students, advisors, and other faculty, they

gather feedback from the student perspective that can be reported to the Deans of our College at monthly meetings," says Blake. As committee chair, Blake manages and delegates his committee's responsibilities and makes sure that every department is getting its fair share of representation. In order to better represent students, they have recently started using surveys and asking non-LAC students to attend any Dean's meetings so that they do their best to make sure every student voice is heard.

■ LORRI MARLOW



PHOTO BY ARMANDO VERA

STUDENT OPINION

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

LIBERAL ARTS COUNCIL'S NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD



President | Morgan Caridi
Vice President | Andrew Wilson
Financial Director | Phil Wiseman
Communication Director | Mallory Foutch
Programs Director | Christine Thorne-Thomsen
Membership Director | Katie Massey

PHOTOS BY MADHU SINGH

AWARDS AND HONORS

2012-2013 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Congratulations to next year's committee chairs. They were selected from a large pool of highly qualified applicants and will be in charge of event planning and leadership growth throughout the next year in council.

Academic Affairs | Amtul Batool And Sonali Kalvala
Campus + Community Focus | Stephanie Pina
College Ambassadors | Grace Fu
Departmental Relations | Alenis Leon
Student Affairs | Alana Harrison And Supriya Misra
The Liberator | Cheyenne Smith And Cassie Maneen
Traditions | Landon Sparks And Ali Raza



COMMITTEE CORNER

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT AWARDS + RECOGNITION

Christine Thorne-Thomsen is the chair for Liberal Arts Council's the Recognition and Awards Committee. As a new committee, AR's primary task was The Liberal Arts study abroad scholarship. However, it is also charged with recognizing students, faculty, advisors, etc. for their hard work.. This year there were over 100 applications for the study abroad scholarships. The scholarships range between \$500-\$2000 per scholarship, and around eight individuals are awarded for the summer and eight for the spring. Christine and her committee are currently working on increasing publicity for the study abroad scholarship and finding more innovative ways to recognize students who have gone above and beyond in the College of Liberal Arts.

■ LORRI MARLOW



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE SENIORS OF THE LIBERATOR

LORRI MARLOW

STAFF WRITER
PHOTOGRAPHER

USMAN MASOOD

STAFF WRITER

MARISA MONTEMAYOR

CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
PHOTOGRAPHER



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Cassie Maneen

Rachel Marino
Lorri Marlow
Usman Masood
Aileen O'Leary
Natasha Smith
Armando Vera

the COLORS of the Tower



PHOTO BY ARMANDO VERA

Carl J. Eckhardt, Jr., had a large envision when he began drafting ideas for the University of Texas Tower in 1931. The Tower, an all-encompassing symbol of our university, has illuminated our campus with different colors since 1937, but 1947 marks the year when guidelines were established for how to light this massive, yet beautiful, structure. Though the lighting configurations were slightly shifted in 2001 under President Larry R. Faulkner, the tower still shines with some of the same ideas that Eckhardt established during its construction.

TOWER ENTIRELY WHITE

The Tower will standardly stand without any fancy lighting, seen as white during the day, and as illuminated white when the sun goes down. The constant illumination of the tower allows us to always see it, and have an unwavering spirit for our school.

ORANGE TOP WITH WHITE SHAFT

Mostly white with an orange top, one can find the tower looking this way after a regular season football victory and a bowl game victory, other than the national championship. You may also see it this way on random occasions, but those special occasions are with the approval of President Powers.

TOWER ENTIRELY ORANGE

Marking celebratory times at UT, the Tower can be seen illuminated entirely orange only during certain times of year. For academic purposes, the Tower will show orange during Academic Convocation (May 19), Honors Day (April 14), Staff Recognition Day, commencement (May 18-19), and during academic team achievements with a #1 showing in white. The Tower will also adorn its orange on UT's birthday, September 15th, and on Texas Independence Day, March 2nd. Athletic recognitions mark the rest of the tower's orange illumination: football victory against Texas A&M, Big 12 Athletics Championship in any sport, and for student organization sports club national championships. During the last illumination, for a national championship, the Tower also sports an 11-story "1".

DARKENED TOWER WITH WHITE CAP AND OBSERVATION DECK

Marking more solemn times on campus, the tower can be found completely darkened, even the windows, with a bright top during UT Remembers (May 4), the Tower Garden dedication (August 1), and other significantly ceremonious times, like the Texas A&M Bonfire Tragedy.

TOWER ENTIRELY ORANGE WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS

The Tower will put on its fancy pants during certain occasions, like on Commencement when both numbers of the graduating class year adorn it and fireworks fly from it.

"The Tower plays a central role in the daily life of the campus," remarked past President Larry R. Faulkner. This statement has held true since the Tower began standing on our campus in 1947, and even today at 75 years old, it is a significant part of any longhorn's day. (Hook 'Em!)

■ MALLORY FOUTCH

Gender-Inclusive Housing = ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

A proposal on campus has made way at The University of Texas at Austin to change its on-campus housing policy. At the moment, all UT dorm rooms are segregated by sex, meaning males can only live with males, and females can only live with females. The new initiative would require UT to offer some gender-inclusive housing where individuals of the opposite sex could live together in the same dorm room.

The queer political activist student organization StandOut is advocating for the change in UT policy. Co-director Katie Fife explains, "Gender-inclusive housing is an alternative living option for students on campus that would give students the opportunity to share a room with someone regardless of their gender."

INADEQUATE POLICIES

Fife argues that the current policy is inadequate when it comes to protecting the well being of some students. "The most prevalent safety issue happens with transgender students and gender non-conforming students. Their gender identity is different than their biological sex, and currently the university policy is that they automatically place you in the same room as your biological sex, so that could lead to uncomfortable or even unsafe living situations if they are placed in a room with someone who does not understand their gender identity or has strong feelings against it," Fife said.

StandOut emphasizes that many types of students would benefit from the proposal. "We want to open

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this option to all students. This would include family members that would want to live together, or even married couples who would not be able to live together under the current university policy," Fife said. Part of StandOut's proposal for the housing program is an application and interview process for interested students. This would ensure high-priority students are being considered in addition to preventing people in romantic relationships from taking advantage of the system.

Senior Christopher Lam, who is in favor of the

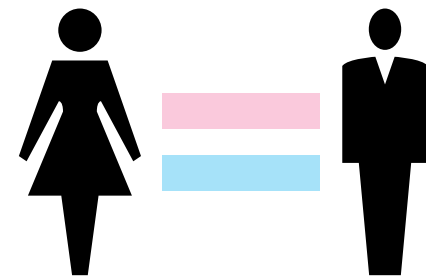
initiative, thinks UT stands to gain if it approves the proposal. "It would benefit UT in the fact that it would be a more friendly environment," Lam said. Lam thinks it will help address serious struggles that some students face when they are matched with a roommate. He can relate to the concern out of personal experience. "I know when I came here I was very nervous about rooming with someone because I'm gay and I was afraid of being judged," Lam said. "I know some people whose roommates have given them a really hard time just because they are gay."

In addition to addressing safety and making sure living conditions are comfortable for all, StandOut argues that providing gender-inclusive housing would attract and retain a more diverse student body at UT. Fife points out that under the current policy, qualified applicants may attend other schools instead of UT since the campus does not offer a gender-inclusive housing option. Over 100 universities nationwide have gender-inclusive housing, including Rice University in Houston. Lam sees this as another reason the initiative is in UT's best interest. "Talented students wouldn't turn down UT," said Lam.

Lam knows from his own experience that university policies like these can be a deciding factor for some students. "I didn't even apply to A&M because I knew the environment was more hostile than at UT," said Lam.

SLIPPERY SLOPE

Opponents of the initiative worry that this change in policy may not currently be in the university's best interest. David Cervantes, a fourth year supply chain major, is concerned with further restricting the already limited living space on campus. "I think there are better ways to fit their needs rather than reserving an entire space," Cervantes said. "There is a scarcity of housing on campus." He believes the university should expand student housing to



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fulfill the already high demand before implementing the initiative.

Ryan Haecker, graduate student and founder of the Anscombe Society, points out that this change may encourage behavior that distracts students from focusing on their education. "If you're allowing men and women to be secluded in closed quarters at all hours of the night, it seems as though you're opening at least the liability for people to use the opportunity to have relations with one another in a way that is harmful to their education and development in college," Haecker said. Haecker also said that a change in policy could generate a "slippery slope" that will encourage further integration of the sexes in dormitories. "Maybe we would expect in the future that there would be absolutely no segregation of sex," Haecker said.

StandOut will present their proposal to the Division of Housing and Food Services before the end of the semester. They will suggest a year long pilot program to demonstrate the benefits of gender-inclusive housing and ideally expand the program from there. Currently, StandOut is circulating a petition to raise awareness and student support. So far the petition has nearly 500 signatures.

■ CHARLOTTE HOCKENS

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